

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KABUL 05267 01 OF 02 141310Z

44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 CU-02 IO-13 COME-00 EB-07 TRSE-00 /092 W

----- 006987

R 140500Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8509

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KABUL 5267

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, IN, AF

SUBJ: INDRA GANDHI IN KABUL: JULY 4-7, 1976

1. SUMMARY. INDIAN PRIME MINISTER INDRA GANDHI
PAID AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO KABUL JULY 4-7. THE
WARMTH OF HER RECEPTION, MEDIA COVERAGE, AND THE
FAVORABLE ATMOSPHERICS SURROUNDING THE VISIT
WERE GREATER THAN AFFORDED ANY OTHER FOREIGN
LEADER TO VISIT AFGHANISTAN SINCE THE JULY 7,
1973 COUP WHICH ESTABLISHED THE DAOUD REGIME.
THERE WAS, HOWEVER, A LACK OF CONTENT IN PUBLIC
ASPECTS OF THE VISIT. NO NEW TECHNICAL OR CUL-
TURAL AGREEMENTS WERE SIGNED, AND THE SPEECHES AND
JOINT COMMUNIQUE WERE LARGELY ANODYNE AND FAMILIAR
FROM PREVIOUS AFGHAN/INDIAN STATEMENTS. NOTABLE
BY ITS ABSENCE WAS ANY MENTION OF PAKISTAN OR
PUSHTUNISTAN. THE SUBJECT WAS TREATED BY
OBlique AND HOPEFUL REFERENCES TO LESSENING
TENSION WITHIN THE REGION. WHILE THE VISIT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KABUL 05267 01 OF 02 141310Z

WAS SHORT ON SUBSTANCE AND LONG ON HOOPLA, ITS

IMPORTANCE SHOULD NOT BE DISCOUNTED. IT INDICATES THAT DESPITE CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES AND REDUCED REGIONAL TENSION AFGHANISTAN WILL ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO ITS INDIAN TIES.
END OF SUMMARY.

2. INDIAN PRIME MINISTER INDIRA GANDHI ARRIVED IN KABUL AT 6 PM ON JULY 4 TO BE GREETED WITH MORE HOOPLA AND PUBLIC PREPARATION THAN HAS BEEN AFFORDED ANY OTHER FOREIGN LEADER SINCE THE REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN WAS FOUNDED BY COUP JULY 17, 1973. CIVIC BEAUTIFICATION PROJECTS ALONG THE LINE OF PROCESSION, WHICH ORDINARILY ARE REFURBISHED ONLY HOURS PRIOR THE ANNUAL JULY 17 CELEBRATIONS, WERE INSTEAD COMPLETED HOURS BEFORE INDIRA'S ARRIVAL. ORDERLY SCHOOL CHILDREN WAVED NEW AFGHAN AND INDIAN FLAGS, POLICE REROUTED KABUL TRAFFIC AND THE SCOUTS WERE ON PARADE. PRIOR TO THE INDIAN PM'S VISIT, AFGHAN MEDIA FEATURED EXTENSIVE BACKGROUND ARTICLES ON INDIA, INDIRA, AND AFGHAN-INDIAN RELATIONS. THE VISIT ITSELF WAS A MEDIA EVENT. THE JULY 5 EDITION OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE "KABUL TIMES" CARRIED NO FEWER THAN FOUR PICTURES OF INDIRA WITH DAOUD ON THE FRONT PAGE. WHILE DAY-TO-DAY EVENTS OF THE VISIT MONOPOLIZED THE FRONT PAGES, INTERSTICES WERE FOUND IN INTERIOR PAGES FOR ARTICLES SUCH AS "HANDLOOM INDUSTRY IN INDIA". HOWEVER, DESPITE OFFICIAL ARRANGEMENTS MRS GHANDI VISIT APPEARS TO HAVE GENERATED LITTLE INTEREST OR ENTHUSIASM AMONG THE POPULACE, ESPECIALLY IN COMPARISON TO PAKISTANI PM BHUTTO'S RECENT VISIT.

3. WHILE THE MESSAGE OF THE TREATMENT AFFORDED MRS GANDHI AND ENTOURAGE IS PLAIN ENOUGH, NOTHING OF GREAT IMPORT EMERGED FROM THE TEXTS OF THE SPEECHES, TOASTS, OR JOINT COMMUNIQUE. INDEED LITTLE EMERGED THAT HAD NOT BECOME STANDARD FARE DURING OTHER HIGH LEVEL AFGHAN-INDIAN EXCHANGES. IDENTITY OF VIEWS WAS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KABUL 05267 01 OF 02 141310Z

INVOKED ON THE MIDDLE EAST, PEACE IN LEBANON, ANTI-APARTHEID, THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE, TOTAL BAN ON USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, CREATION OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER, ETC. SHARED VIEWS ON THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM), WHICH HAVE ALSO BECOME ROUTINE, WERE A BIT MORE POINTED: AGREEMENT ON THE IMPORTANCE OF STRICT ADHERENCE TO NAM MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA AND A JOINT RESOLVE TO WORK TOWARD THIS END IN COLOMBO. THE VISIT DID NOT PRODUCE ANY NEW ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE OR CULTURAL

EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS, THOUGH MRS. GANDHI DID ANNOUNCE THAT A NEW WING WOULD BE ADDED TO THE INDIAN-BUILT CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSTITUTE IN KABUL AND THERE WAS PASSING COMMUNIQUE REFERENCE TO INDIA'S COOPERATING IN AFGHANISTAN'S SEVEN YEAR PLAN.

4. MORE IMPORTANT PERHAPS WAS WHAT WAS PUBLICLY MENTIONED ONLY OBLIQUELY: PAKISTAN AND PUSHTUNISTAN. MUTUAL ANTAGONISM TO PAKISTAN WAS, OF COURSE, AN IMPORTANT REASON FOR THE BETTERMENT OF AFGHAN/INDIAN RELATIONS THAT FOLLOWED DAOUD'S ASSUMPTION OF POWER, AND THIS HAS BEEN APPARENT IN STATEMENTS GENERATED DURING HIGH LEVEL TALKS BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES. WHEN DAOUD VISITED DELHI IN MARCH 1975 THE ISSUE WAS RAISED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE LIFTING OF THE U.S. ARMS EMBARGO AND ITS EFFECTS ON THE "BLOODSHED IN PUSHTUNISTAN AND BALUCHISTAN". PUBLIC STATEMENTS FROM MRS. GANDI'S JULY 4-7 KABUL VISIT REFLECTED THE GENERALLY IMPROVED RELATIONS IN THE REGION BY PUSHING THIS KIND OF CONTENTIOUS ISSUE INTO PARAGRAPHS OF VEILED REFERENCE: THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE STATES THAT DURING THEIR TALKS PRESIDENT DAOUD "EXPLAINED THAT IN KEEPING WITH THE TRADITIONAL POLICY OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP AFGHANISTAN HAS SOUGHT TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION". MRS. GANDHI "WELCOMED THIS PEACE-LOVING POLICY" AND IN TURN "EXPLAINED EFFORTS WHICH INDIA HAS TAKEN IN RECENT MONTHS WITH HER NEIGHBORS IN ORDER TO PROMOTE PEACE, STABILITY, AND COOPERATION IN SOUTH ASIA". SIMILARLY BOTH DAOUD AND GANDHI REFERRED IN BANQUET SPEECHES TO "THE SUCCESS OF RECENT POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE REGION" AND MRS. GANDHI STATED IN A MESSAGE AIMED AT MORE THAN ONE CAPITAL: "HOWEVER WE DO WANT IT TO BE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT FRIENDSHIP WITH ONE COUNTRY CANNOT BE AT THE COST OF ANOTHER'S". FOR HIS PART PAKISTANI P.M. BHUTTO BEAMED A GOOD WILL MESSAGE TO DAOUD DURING THE VISIT AS HE WINGED HIS WAY THROUGH AFGHAN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 KABUL 05267 01 OF 02 141310Z

AIRSPACE ON HIS WAY TO SEE THE SHAH.

5. LOOKING JUST AT P.M. GANDHI'S KABUL VISIT ALONE, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT BENEATH THE WARMTH AND HOOPLA SURROUNDING THE OCCASION THERE WAS LITTLE BILATERAL CONTENT - AT LEAST IN THE MANIFESTATIONS PRESENTLY ACCESSIBLE. AT THE SAME TIME THERE WERE NO PUBLIC EVENTS NOR STATEMENTS THAT WOULD CHILL THE PRESHENTLY HOPEFUL ATMOSPHERE SURROUNDING RELAXATION OF TENSIONS WITH PAKISTAN. MOREOVER, THE IMPORT OF SUCH RED

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KABUL 05267 02 OF 02 141315Z

44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 CU-02 IO-13 COME-00 EB-07 TRSE-00 /092 W

----- 007131

R 140500Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8510

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KABUL 5267

CARPET TREATMENT SHOULD NOT BE DISCOUNTED. SUCH
TREATMENT WAS NOTICEABLY LACKING, FOR EXAMPLE,
DURING PODGORNY'S DECEMBER 1975 VISIT TO KABUL.

6. THE TREATMENT AFFORDED MRS GANDHI AND THE
REAL SIGNIFICANCE UNDERLYING HER VISIT STEMS
FROM THE IMPORTANCE OF INDIA IN THE FOREIGN POLICY
OBJECTIVES UNDERTAKEN BY DAOUD SINCE JULY 1973.
WITHIN THE REPUBLIC'S FIRST YEAR, DAOUD'S BROTHER
AND PRINCIPAL FOREIGN POLICY ADVISOR MOHAMMAD
NAIM AND DEPFONMIN WAHEED ABDULLAH JOURNEYED
TWICE TO NEW DELHI (SEPT 73, FEB 74) AND INDIAN
FONMIN SINGH CAME TO KABUL (NOV 74). INDIA WAS
ONE OF THE FIRST COUNTRIES CHOSEN BY PRESIDENT
DAOUD FOR A STATE VISIT (MARCH 1975), AND MIN
OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS CHAVAN VISITED AFGHANISTAN
IN OCTOBER 1975. FOR THE FLEDGLING REPUBLIC OF
AFGHANISTAN THE VISIBLE IMPROVEMENT OF REKATIONS
WITH INDIA MEANT: 1) AN AUDIENCE SYMPATHETIC TO
ITS PROBLEM WITH PAKISTAN; 2) AN IMPORTANT FRIEND

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KABUL 05267 02 OF 02 141315Z

IN THE NAM; AND 3) A SOURCE OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND MILITARY TRAINING WHICH, NOT INCIDENTALLY, WAS IMPORTANT TO ADD COUNTERBALANCE TO SOVIET INFLUENCE IN THE AFGHAN PASTIME OF REGULATING THE MIXTURE OF EAST AND WEST IN ITS FOREIGN RELATIONS AND DOMESTIC AFFAIRS.

7. THE INCREASED CONFIDENCE OF THE DAOUD REGIME, ITS CHANGED ATTITUDE TOWARDS PAKISTAN, AND RECENT WELL KNOWN INITIATIVES IN THE REGION AIMED AT LESSENING TENSIONS HAVE ALL HAD THEIR IMPACT ON THESE AIMS. PROBABLY ON BOTH PRESIDENT DAOUD'S AND PM GANDHI'S CHECKLISTS WAS INSURING THAT THESE DEVELOPMENTS HAVE NOT UNDERMINED AFGHAN/INDIAN RELATIONS OR LESSENED THE DESIRE FOR CLOSE RELATIONS. OTHER OF AFGHANISTAN'S ORIGINAL REASONS FOR PURSUING FRIENDSHIP MAY HAVE CHANGED - THE LEVEL OF THE PRESENCE OF INDIAN TECHNICIANS, FOR EXAMPLE, MAY HAVE BECOME AN IRRITANT IN AFGHAN/INDIAN RELATIONS RATHER THAN A DESIDERATUM SINCE, WHEN IT COMES RIGHT DOWN TO IT, AFGHANS FOR REASONS OF CULTURE AND RELIGION BASICALLY HAVE LITTLE LIKING FOR INDIANS. NEVERTHELESS THE EXTREME WARMTH WITH WHICH THE AFGHANS GREETED THIS HINDU LEADER IS TESTAMENT TO THE GOA'S RECOLLECTION THAT INDIA WAS AN IMPORTANT FRIEND WHEN AFGHANISTAN FELT ITSELF IN NEED, AND THAT GOOD AFGHAN/INDIAN RELATIONS REMAIN AN IMPORTANT COUNCSR IN THE REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN'S GAME OF DIPLOMACY.

ELIOT

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976KABUL05267
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760272-0281
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760760/aaaacath.tel
Line Count: 254
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 NOV 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 NOV 2003 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDIRA GANDHI IN KABUL: JULY 4-7, 1976
TAGS: PFOR, PK, IN, AF, (GANDHI, INDIRA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006